

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 0178

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: EXERCISE HILEX 8

REF: (A) STATE 005399 DTG 110102Z JAN 77 (NOTAL), (B)
USNATO 0055 DTG 061710Z JAN 77, (C) 76 USNATO 7065
DTG 301630Z DEC 76

SUMMARY: DURING JAN 11, 1977 MEETING OF HILEX 8 OPEN-ENDED
WORKING GROUP, US REP RAISED COMMENTS CONTAINED IN REF A.
THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING THAT THE DRAFT OUTLINE SCENARIO
FOR HILEX 8 DID NOT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE DOCU-
MENT SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR THE HIGH LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING
GROUP (HLEPG) WHICH WILL BEGIN MEETING IN MAY, 1977. ACTION
REQUESTED: SEE PARAS 5 AND 6. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JAN 11, 1977 THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP FOR
EXERCISE HILEX 8 MET TO ADDRESS THE DRAFT OUTLINE SCENARIO
FOR HILEX 8 (MSS/76)51(REVISED) AND MSS/77/1) AND TO
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PREPARE THE OUTLINE SCENARIO FOR PRESENTATION TO THE
COEC.

2. PRIOR TO THE MEETING THE US REP (MCKENNEY) PRESENTED
THE COMMENTS CONTAINED IN REF A TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
WORKING GROUP (SUNGURTEKIN). HE AGREED TO CONSIDER
THE COMMENTS IN THE NEXT DRAFT.

3. AT THE MEETING THE DANISH REP (JENSEN) STATED THAT
HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THE DRAFT OUTLINE DID NOT ACCOMPLISH

ITS PURPOSE OF PROVIDING BROAD GUIDANCE TO THE HLEPG. RATHER, THEY BELIEVED THE DRAFT WAS TOO LONG AND INCLUDED FAR TOO MUCH DETAIL. OTHER REPS, INCLUDING US REP, SUPPORTED THIS VIEW AND AGREED THAT THE DRAFT SHOULD BE CHANGED TO A GUIDANCE OUTLINE. THE CHAIRMAN AGREED TO REVISE THE DRAFT ACCORDING TO THE WISHES OF THE GROUP.

4. A SECOND POINT, ALSO RAISED BY DANISH REP AND CONCURRED IN BY SEVERAL REPS, INCLUDING THE US REP, WAS THAT THE OUTLINE FAILED TO PROVIDE POLITICAL RATIONALE AS A BASIS FOR THE SCENARIO. AGAIN THIS WAS NOTED BY THE CHAIRMAN. (COMMENT: SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING, THE US REP, IN A MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR, COUNCIL OPERATIONS (MORAN), NOTED THE PROBLEMS, BOTH THOSE SURFACED BY US COMMENTS AS WELL AS THE VIEWS OF OTHER REPS, WITH THE DRAFT OUTLINE. MORAN AGREED TO SEE THAT A BETTER VERSION WAS PRODUCED. END COMMENT.)

5. THE GROUP ADDRESSED THE SUBJECT OF OUT-OF-AREA PLAY. ALL AGREED TO DELETE REFERENCE TO AFRICA AS A WORKING PART OF THE SCENARIO. HOWEVER, IN AN EARLIER PRIVATE CONVERSATION, SACLANT REP, WHO WAS NOT AT THE MEETING, SAID THAT SACLANT WOULD INSIST ON A MARITIME INCIDENT WHICH TAKES PLACE OUTSIDE THE NATO BOUNDARY AREA BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SURFACE OUT-OF-AREA MARITIME PROBLEMS. IN VIEW OF OUR COMMENT (REF A, PARA 2(12)),
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THE SACLANT REP ASKED FOR OUR SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT GOOD INCIDENT WOULD/COULD BE USED IN THE SCENARIO. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FOR AN OUT-OF-AREA MARITIME INCIDENT REQUIRING SACLANT REACTION.

6. FINALLY, THE GROUP ADDRESSED THE SUBJECT OF FUTURE ACTION AND TIMING. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT HE WOULD HAVE A REVISED DRAFT IN ABOUT TEN DAYS PROVIDED HE HAD ALL ALL COMMENTS FROM NATIONS VERY SOON. (NOTE: WE ARE STILL AWAITING COMMENT ON REF B.) FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF A NEW DRAFT, ANOTHER WORKING GROUP MEETING WOULD BE SCHEDULED QUICKLY. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT, AFTER COEC APPROVAL, HE EXPECTED THE FIRST OF FOUR OR FIVE MEETINGS OF THE HLEPG TO BE HELD IN MAY, 1977. NEARLY ALL REPS INDICATED THAT THEIR NATIONS WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY QUOTE OFFICIALS UNQUOTE FROM CAPITALS. (COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE US SHOULD ALSO BE REPRESENTED BY A WASHINGTON CONTINGENT DURING MOST, IF NOT ALL, HLEPG MEETINGS. WE BELIEVE IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT WASHINGTON REP(S) ATTEND THE FIRST MEETING SO THAT US HIGH LEVEL INTEREST CAN BE DEMONSTRATED. END COMMENT.) ACTION REQUESTED: COMMENT ON WASHINGTON EXPERTS' PARTICIPATION AT HLEPG MEETINGS. STRAUSS-HUPE

SECRET

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